

Districting Commission

71012

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Nora Cofresi

Arreda Cotten

Janet Gianopoulos

Chris Knasiak

Thomas J. Murphy

Jason Nordlund

Rev. Steve Ruelke

Staff:

Corporation Counsel Michelle Kelson

GIS Analyst Lawrence Fleischer

Administrative Assistant Ann Kuzmik

Agenda Items:

Corporation Counsel Michelle Kelson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION 1:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 6/12/12 meeting was made by Chris Knasiak and seconded by Jason Nordlund. The motion was approved unanimously with Rev. Ruelke abstaining.

Discussion followed about the process of selection of a chairperson and a vice-chair. Nora Cofresi and Tom Murphy indicated they were not interested in serving in either position.

MOTION 2:

Janet Gianopoulos made a motion that each member nominate 3 people. The person with the most nominations would serve as chair; the second most, co-chair. The top two would then decide who would serve in which capacity. Arreda Cotten seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a poll of the members, Chris Knasiak and Jason Nordlund had the most votes.

MOTION 3:

Janet Gianopoulos moved and Chris Knasiak seconded a motion that Chris and Jason be accepted as chair and vice-chair. Following further discussion, the motion that Chris Knasiak would be chair, and Jason Nordlund co-chair, passed unanimously. Michelle Kelson then turned over leadership of the meeting to Chris Knasiak.

MOTION 4:

Janet Gianopoulos moved and Chris Knasiak seconded that Robert's Rules of Order be accepted for proceedings of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

The group then reviewed and compared maps prepared by Lawrence Fleisher, which showed the actual population of wards proposed by each Commission member at the previous meeting. They discussed various ways to move the boundaries to ensure a 10 percent or less deviation between the ward with the highest population and the one with the lowest. Much of the discussion centered on how to achieve compactness and contiguity while maintaining equal population. Following discussion of all the maps, the group made adjustments to the boundaries of Arreda Cotten's draft map.

MOTION 5:

Nora Cofresi made a motion, seconded by Janet Gianopoulos, that Arreda Cotten's map, as adjusted by the Commission, be used as a preliminary guide for the districting process.

MOTION 6:

Janet Gianopoulos made a motion, seconded by Thomas Murphy that 2 maps be prepared from the adjusted map- one showing population with street names placed only at ward boundaries; and a second one also showing street names only at the ward boundaries with racial and ethnic data overlaid.

The motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Kelson then passed out examples of case law regarding districting for the Commission to review for the next meeting.

Janet Gianopoulos asked for the timeline of the Districting Commission's task and what can be accomplished over the next three meetings. Michelle Kelson reiterated that:

- The final map must be filed on or before April 1, 2013- it will be filed with the City Clerk's Office, the County Clerk and the Board of Election
- A public hearing must be held before filing the final map with some time between the close of the comment period and the filing

She suggested that with winter weather considerations and the possibility of meetings being canceled, the group should consider selecting the date and location of the public hearing by the end of September.

In other discussion, Nora Cofresi asked Michelle Kelson if there was any conflict with her being on the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Districting Commission. Ms. Kelson said that Ms. Cofresi had met the criteria and there was no conflict. Ms. Cofresi also asked if anyone had been through (the districting) process before. The group indicated they had not.

Janet Gianopoulos suggested that the Commission ask Gerry Benjamin to take a look at the proposed map, and asked if there is a budget for his services. Michelle Kelson said she would contact Gerry about his availability and costs.

Rev. Ruelke said that the public hearing should be no later than Feb. 1, and reminded the group about the importance of engaging people in the process. The Commission discussed ways to accomplish this.

The Commission then re-opened discussion on the minutes of the June 6, 2012 meeting; in particular, Motion 4. The group agreed to review the minutes and amend if necessary at the next meeting; Michelle Kelson will draft suggested changes for their consideration.

NEXT STEPS:

For next agenda:

- Timelines
- Map review- “live”
- Correcting minutes of June 12, 2012 meeting
- Ways to engage the public

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.